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EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

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I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, this paper or fee was deposited with the U.S. Postal Service & that it was addressed for delivery to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: 2309/01213

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Satoshi MIZUTANI et al.

Serial No.: 09/771,131

Confirmation No.: 6716

Filed: January 26, 2001

For: TOP SHEET FOR ABSORBENT ARTICLES, AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING IT

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In order to comply with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the documents listed thereon.

All of these documents were either 1) not cited in a foreign counterpart of this application and not known for more than three months, or 2) were first cited in a foreign counterpart of this application not more than three months ago.

In accordance with MPEP Sections 609 and 707.05(b), it is requested that each document cited (including any cited in applicant's specification which is not repeated on the attached Form PTO-1449) be given thorough consideration and that it be cited of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing Form PTO-1449 next to the document. Such initialing is requested even if the Examiner does not consider a cited document to be sufficiently pertinent to use in a rejection, or otherwise does not consider it to be prior art for any reason, or even if the Examiner does not believe that the guidelines for citation have been fully complied with. This is requested so that each document becomes listed on the face of the patent issuing on the present application.

The undersigned is also enclosing herewith a copy of a Search Report issued July 30, 2002 for the Austrian counterpart of the present patent application (Application No. 200100455-5), in which the presently disclosed references were cited. Since a translation of the Search Report is also enclosed, or the Search Report utilizes conventional codes to characterize each cited reference, it is believed that the applicants in the above-identified patent application have now

met the "concise explanation" requirement of 37 C.F.R. 1.98.

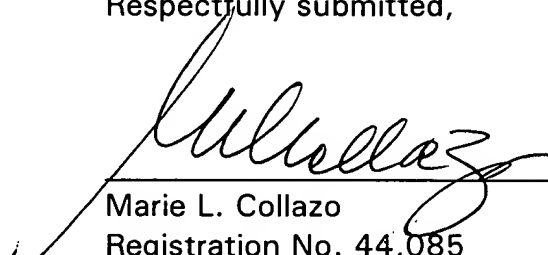
The present Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56, but the citation of such document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner, in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104(a) and in the course of each search, will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

It is believed that no fee is due. However, if the Commissioner determines that a fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the above deposit account for any deficiency.

Early and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 13, 2002


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